<u>IN THE CLAIMS:</u>

Please AMEND Claims 1 and 15 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reading a plurality of film originals, <u>each being</u> mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and displaying them on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the method comprising:

an image reading step of reading each of the images of the originals placed on the original support, identifying a number of frames of film originals <u>simultaneously</u> present on the original support, and cutting out image areas of frames of the film originals to generate image signals;

a placement orientation detection step of detecting placement orientation of the original as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of the image signal generated in said image reading step;

an image signal rotation step of rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the original detected in said placement orientation detection step is different from the landscape placement; and

a read image signal display step of <u>simultaneously</u> displaying the plurality of read image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape placement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a display orientation setting step of setting said predetermined orientation.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second image signal rotation step of rotating the plurality of image signals by a predetermined angle irrespective of the placement orientation detected in said placement orientation detection step; and

a second display orientation setting step of setting whether the images are to be displayed in the orientation aligned with the predetermined orientation or the images rotated by said second image signal rotation step are to be displayed.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said second display orientation setting step optionally sets to display the image in the orientation detected in the placement orientation detection step.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said second image signal rotation step further includes, upon rotating the image signal by the predetermined angle, correcting its inclination with respect to a vertical or horizontal direction.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in said image reading step, a plurality of originals placed on the original support are read and the other steps are performed on an image signal obtained from each of the originals individually.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for reading a plurality of film originals, <u>each being</u> mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and for displaying them on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the system comprising:

an image reader for reading each of the images of the originals placed on the original support, identifying a number of frames of film originals <u>simultaneously</u> present on the original support, and for cutting out image areas of frames of the film originals to generate image signals;

a placement orientation detector for detecting placement orientation of the original as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of the image signal generated by said image reader;

an image signal rotator for rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the original detected by said placement orientation detector is different from the landscape placement; and

a read image signal display for <u>simultaneously</u> displaying the plurality of read image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape displacement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.